

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LOCAL MEDIA OLYMPICS COVERAGE - WRAPUP

1. THE MONTREAL 76 OLYMPICS, AFTER COMMENCING WITH THE DISTINCTION OF BEING "OLYMPICS...WITHOUT AFRICANS", TOOK ON ANOTHER SIGNIFICANCE IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA AND FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY: THE GAMES MARKED THE TRIUMPH OF SOCIALIST STATES OVER THE WEST, AND ESPECIALLY THE U.S. (SEE TANANARIVE 1215 AND 1220). AS RADIO REPORT OF JULY 26 PUT IT: " THE 1976 OLYMPIC GAMES TOLL THE END FOR WESTERN SPORTS".

2. IN AUGUST 8 OLYMPICS WRAP-UP, DAILY MADAGASCAR MATIN LISTED MEDALS WON BY TOP WINNERS, ADDING: "AND WHAT WELL ILLUSTRATES THE FORMIDABLE UPSURGE (POUSSEE) OF THE SOCIAL-IST COUNTRIES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WESTERN NATIONS (IS THAT) SEVEN (SOCIALIST COUNTRIES) FIGURE IN THE TOP TEN (PLACES)".

3. THE PAPER CONTINUED THIS TREND IN AUGUST 9 ISSUE WITH FRONT PAGE HEADLINE: "DECOUVREZ LE SPORT EN URSS, PREMIER AUX J.O. DE MONTREAL". FRONT PAGE ARTICLE DEVOTED TO COMPARISON OF USSR AND GDR VS USA MEDAL SCORES, AFTER WHICH ARTICLE DECLARED: "THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF MONTREAL 1976 ARE OVER. VIVENT THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF MOSCOW 1980*" PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTED SOVIET MEDAL WINNERS. FULL PAGE SPORTS SECTION DEVOTED TO SIMILAR PHOTOS, WHICH NEWS-UNCLASSIFIED

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PAPER HEADLINED WAS IN HOMAGE TO "EXTRAORDINARY VITALITY

OF SOVIET SPORT". PHOTOS WERE COURTESY OF NOVOSTI AND ITS TANANARIVE CORRESPONDENT, YOURI OLEINITCHENKO. COPY SHARING PAGE DEVOTED TO OFFICIAL SOVIET COMMENTS ON PROJECTED MEANING OF MOSCOW GAMES (THE TRIUMPH OF CO-EXISTENCE AND DETENTE "AS CONSISTENTLY APPLIED BY THE USSR AND COUNTRIES IN THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY"). OTHER ARTICLES WERE ACCREDITED EXCERPTS FROM "SOVIETSKI SPORT" AND "LITERATOURNALA GAZETA".

4. MEANWHILE, INDEPENDENT MALAGASY-LANGUAGE PAPERS FOUND OTHER POINTS TO PONDER. MODERATE CATHOLIC WEEKLY LAKROAN'I MADAGASIKARA COMMENTED ON WHAT IT TERMED "INDIFFERENCE" OF SOCIALIST "BROTHER COUNTRIES" TOWARD AFRICAN SENTIMENTS TOWARD OLYMPICS.

5. INFLUENTIAL DAILY MARESAKA SAID THAT WHAT MADE GAMES NOTABLE, ASIDE FROM ABSENCE OF AFRICAIS, WAS NUMBER OF EAST EUROPEAN DEFECTIONS TO CANADA. AND, IN THE MIDST OF THIS, INDEPENDENT DAILY SAHY WONDERED WHY RADIO WAS COVERING THE OLYMPICS SO THOROUGHLY IN VIEW AFRICAN BOYCOTT. IT ASKED: "ARE WE REVOLUTIONARY OR NOT?"

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